

# Leaf from a Book of Hours, Flanders, ca. 1450, Psalm 122:1-9 — Psalm 123:1

*Utopia, armarium codicum bibliophilorum montrealensis canadiensis*  
Version date 20240329

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## *Provenance*

Purchased by the donor 23-Oct-1990, from Maggs Bros. Ltd. in London, this leaf appeared in their *European Bulletin No. 16* (1990), "Item 62, Flemish Illuminator: mid 15th-century". The collector was fully aware at the time of purchase that the miniature was in, as the catalogue described it, "very washed-out" condition. This leaf's dimensions correspond exactly to those in the catalogue description, 170 x 130 mm. On the sales receipt, which is still in the collector's possession, the price is £110, matching the price marked in pencil by Maggs, in the lower margin of the leaf's verso.

On 27 March 2024, the leaf was donated anonymously to the Bibliothèque des livres rares et collections spéciales, Université de Montréal.

## *Description*

**Leaf dimensions.** 173 mm height x 130 mm width

**Text dimensions.** 100 mm height x 67 mm width

**Support.** Parchment.

**Language.** Latin

**Text.** *Recto.* A single word, “sextam”, *i.e.* [*Ad horam*] *sextam* appears at the base of the full-page miniature’s gilt frame.

*Verso.* Thirteen lines of text. Contains all of Psalm 122, followed by the first verse of Psalm 123. A full transcription appears in the section below. As such, this folio comprises a section from *The Office of Our Blessed Lady, At Sext* [*Officium Beatae Mariae, Ad Sextam*], as transcribed in [A Hypertext Book of Hours](#), corresponding to either the version of the Office spoken during the [Advent season](#), or the [Christmas season](#).

**Ruling pattern.** Muzerelle 1-1 / 0 / 1-1 / J.

<http://palaеographia.org/muzerelle/regGraph2.php?F=1-1/0/1-1/J>

**Decoration.** On the verso, there are two two-line illuminated initials on the verso, done with gold, blue and red pigments, with white tracery. As well, the verso has four one-line illuminated initials in gold, white and red pigments. For a fuller description, refer to the Maggs catalogue description in the section below. Not mentioned by Maggs, however, are the presence of two faint, cartoonish outlines—drolleries drawn by the painter, perhaps?—in the bottom right corner of the verso. A close-up photograph of them appears in the Images section, below.

**Storage.** Since its purchase in 1984, the leaf has been maintained by the owner within its original wrapping supplied by the bookdealer, a clear, archival-quality Rexell Nyrex sleeve. It has never been

exposed to direct sunlight, and it has never hung on the wall. However, the humidity and temperature have not been regulated, and so it's gone through four decades of dry, Canadian winters.

# *Images*

*Recto*

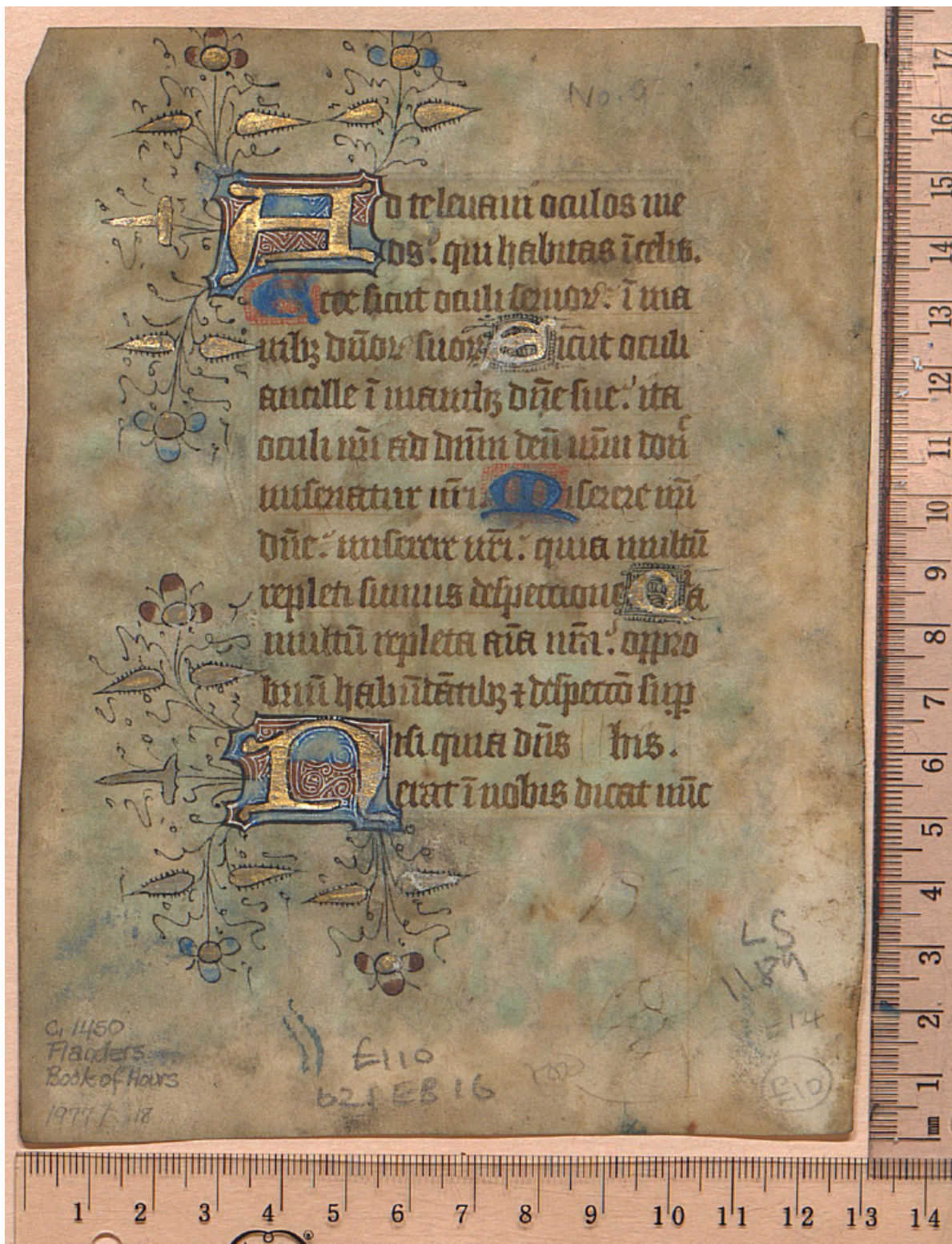














**A**d te levavi oculos meos: qui habitas in celis.

Sicut sicut oculi servorum: in manibus domini suorum. Sicut oculi ancille in manibus domine sue: ita oculi nostri ad dominum deum nostrum domini miserentur nostri.

Miserere nostri domine: miserere nostri: quia multum repleti sumus despectu tuo.

Quia multum repleta anima nostra: approbationem habuimus in oculis tuis et despectum super

**N**isi quia dominus in his. erat in nobis dicat nunc



*Verso bas-de-page, detail*

In the bottom right corner, in possibly the same brown ink as the text, appear two small figures, the upper one perhaps the right profile of a bird, and the lower one, perhaps the left profile of an anthropomorphic figure, a mouse with protruding tongue, wearing a tall cap, seated like a child.



*Bookseller's Catalogue Description*

Maggs Bros. Ltd.

*European Bulletin No. 16 (1990)*

Illuminated and text manuscripts, illuminated miniatures and single leaves from the 12th to the 17th century.

Page 44, item 62.

[62] FLEMISH ILLUMINATOR: mid 15th-century

Illuminated MS. leaf on vellum from a Book of Hours. Flanders, c. 1450.

*Illuminated miniature of Christ carrying the cross within border of acanthus leaves and hair-line stems with gold leaves (very worn). On verso, 2 two-line gold initials on grounds of blue and mauve with white tracery, from which sprout gold leaves on hair-line stems and blue flowers to form partial borders.*

Size of leaf: 170 x 130mm. 13 lines of liturgical gothic text on verso. £110.

Although the miniature is very washed out, the decoration on the verso, although stained to some extent, reveals an excellent example of Flemish illumination.

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[44]

The Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts contains 21 entries for items 1-11 from this catalogue:

[https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?op=AND&per\\_page=50&search\\_field=advanced&sort=catalog\\_or\\_lot\\_number\\_sort+desc&source=SDBM\\_SOURCE\\_11688](https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?op=AND&per_page=50&search_field=advanced&sort=catalog_or_lot_number_sort+desc&source=SDBM_SOURCE_11688)

# SDBM\_SOURCE\_11688

**Type**

Auction/Dealer Catalog

**Date**

1990

**Title**

European bulletin no. 15: 16 Illuminated and text manuscripts, illuminated miniatures and single leaves from the 12th to the 17th century

**Selling Agent**

Maggs Bros.

**# Entries**

This source has 21 entries in the database.

**Created By**

manuscript\_database

**Status**

Entered

**Other Info**

No other info recorded

There is an OCLC WorldCat record for this item:

<https://www.worldcat.org/title/907492094?oclcNum=907492094>

## *Approximate Transcription*

Book of Hours, Flanders, ca. 1450, Maggs Bulletin 16 (1990), Item 62.

***Recto.***

At base of full-page miniature, in lettre bâtarde—

**sextam**

***Verso.***

13 text lines.

(a) Lines 1-11 comprise all four verses of Psalm 122 [Canticum graduum = A Song of Ascents].

(b) Lines 12-13 comprise all but the final word from the first verse of Psalm 123 [Canticum graduum. = A song of ascents. Of David].

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1 Ad te levavi oculos me[-]  
2 os. qui habitas i[n] c[a]elis.  
3 Ecce sicut oculi servoru[m]. i[n] ma[-]  
4 nib[us] d[omin]or[um] suor[um]. Sicut oculi  
5 ancill[a]e i[n] manib[us] d[omina]e su[a]e. ita  
6 oculi n[ostri] ad d[ominu]m d[eu]m n[ost]ru[m], don[ec]  
7 misereatur n[ost]ri. Miserere n[ost]ri,  
8 d[omin]e. miserere n[ost]ri. quia multu[m]  
9 repleti sumus despectione. Q[ui]a  
10 multu[m] repleta est a[nim]a n[ost]ra. oppro[-]  
11 briu[m] habu[n]da[n]tib[us] [et] despectio sup[er].  
12 Nisi quia D[ominu]s bis.  
13 erat i[n] nobis, dicat nu[n]c

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*Text sources.*

Edgar, Swift, and Angela M. Kinney. 2010. *The Vulgate Bible: Douay-Rheims translation*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. Pg. 502. [https://www.google.ca/books/edition/The\\_Vulgate\\_Bible\\_Volume\\_III/Sfyj3s4QuC8C](https://www.google.ca/books/edition/The_Vulgate_Bible_Volume_III/Sfyj3s4QuC8C)  
Web page consulted 20220622.

Gunhouse, Glenn. Officium Beatae Mariae. Ad Sextam. In: "A Hypertext Book of Hours." *Hypertext Book of Hours*. Web. <http://medievalist.net/hourstxt/bvm2sex.htm> Consulted 20220830.

## *Potentially Related Manuscripts*

The donor's leaf measures 173 (170) x 130 mm, and given the absence of gutter binding holes, is likely to have been trimmed significantly from its predismembered state. In 2022, the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts contained five entries for Flemish Books of Hours having folio heights between 171 and 180 centimetres:

[https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight\\_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Fla](https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Fla)



[nders&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&num\\_lines%5B%5D=%5B13+TO+13%5D&op=AND&per\\_page=100&search\\_field=advanced&sort=entry\\_id+asc](#)

Of these five items, all are Sotheby's auction records from 1911 to 128, all mention 17 text lines per page similar donor's, but only two mention full-page miniatures, [1911-12-13 - Sotheby Lot 475](#), and [1928-05-21 - Sotheby's Lot 35](#).

And 39 entries for Flemish Books of Hours having folio heights between 161 and 170 centimetres  
[https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight\\_range%5D%5B%5D=161+-+170&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth\\_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per\\_page=100&search\\_field=all\\_fields](https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight_range%5D%5B%5D=161+-+170&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per_page=100&search_field=all_fields)

Three are 44 SDBM records for Books of Hours with height 171-180 mm, width 121-130 mm, Flanders, and text lines 11-20:

[https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight\\_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bnum\\_lines\\_range%5D%5B%5D=11+-+20&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth\\_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per\\_page=100&search\\_field=all\\_fields&sort=source\\_date+asc](https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bnum_lines_range%5D%5B%5D=11+-+20&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per_page=100&search_field=all_fields&sort=source_date+asc)

Of these 44, just two identify the selling agent as Maggs Bros. Both describe a codex with 19 text lines and five full-page miniatures.

[https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight\\_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bnum\\_lines\\_range%5D%5B%5D=11+-+20&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Bsale\\_selling\\_agent%5D%5B%5D=Maggs+Bros.&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth\\_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per\\_page=100&search\\_field=all\\_fields&sort=source\\_date+asc](https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/?f%5Bheight_range%5D%5B%5D=171+-+180&f%5Bnum_lines_range%5D%5B%5D=11+-+20&f%5Bplace%5D%5B%5D=Flanders&f%5Bsale_selling_agent%5D%5B%5D=Maggs+Bros.&f%5Btitle%5D%5B%5D=Book+of+Hours&f%5Bwidth_range%5D%5B%5D=121+-+130&per_page=100&search_field=all_fields&sort=source_date+asc)

***University of Victoria Libraries, Fragm.Brown.Lat.11***

<https://fragmentarium.ms/overview/F-l672>

Book of Hours – Fragment

Parchment · 1 leaf · 1451 – 1500 CE · Flanders? · 127 x 83 mm

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